



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
DENVER, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8ENF-UFO

DEC 17 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. J. D. Horrocks  
Newfield Exploration Company  
Route 3, Box 3630  
Myton, Utah 84052

Re: Underground Injection Control (UIC); Notice of Violation: Loss of Mechanical Integrity for the Federal 5-33-8-18 Well (EPA Permit ID# UT22197-07424, API # 43-047-35978) – Monument Butte Oil Field, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Horrocks:

On November 25, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency learned by way of email from Alfredo Rios that the Newfield Exploration Company injection well referenced above lost mechanical integrity on November 25, 2015. Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 144.51(q)(1) (40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(1)), you must establish and maintain mechanical integrity. A loss of mechanical integrity is a violation of this requirement.

Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(2), you must immediately cease injection into this well. Before injection may resume, you must demonstrate that the well has mechanical integrity by passing a mechanical integrity test. You must also receive written authorization from the EPA.

In that same email referenced above, Mr. Rios described the action you intend to take regarding the well. It is expected that you will return this well to compliance within ninety (90) days of the loss of mechanical integrity. If you choose to plug and abandon this well, the approved plugging and abandonment plan that is incorporated into the permit must be followed. Any deviation from that plan must be submitted to the EPA for approval prior to the plugging operation.

Failure to comply with the UIC regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 144 through 148 constitutes one or more violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h. Such non-compliance may subject you to formal enforcement by the EPA, as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Gary Wang at (303) 312-6469. Please direct all correspondence to the attention of Gary Wang at Mail Code 8ENF-UFO.

Sincerely,

Suzanne J. Bohan  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

cc: Shaun Chapoose, Chairman  
Uintah & Ouray Business Committee

Edred Secakuku, Vice-Chairman  
Uintah & Ouray Business Committee

Reannin Tapoof, Executive Assistant  
Uintah & Ouray Business Committee